

WE CLAIM:

1. A removable communications unit comprising:

5 a unit communications port that permits secure transfer of information between the removable communications unit and an introduction device when a proximity based communications port of the introduction device is placed in close proximity to the unit communications port;

10 a processor connected to the unit communications port;

15 a unit connector that allows for complementary releasable engagement of a connector associated with an electronic device, the unit connector being connected to the processor and allows communication between the processor and the electronic device;

20 a communications interface connected to the processor for allowing the removable communications unit to communicate with at least one other remote removable communications unit; and

25 a memory connected to the processor for storing security information, wherein in use the processor communicates with the introduction device to transfer the security information between the memory and introduction device via the unit communications port and the proximity based communications port.

30 2. A removable communications unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the unit communications port allows the security information to be transferred from the introduction device to the memory.

35 3. A removable communications unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the unit communications port allows

security information to be transferred from the memory to the introduction device.

4. A removable communications unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communications interface is a transmitter, receiver or transceiver.

5. A removable communications unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communications interface communicates with at least one said other remote removable communications unit by radio frequency signals.

6. A removable communications unit as claimed in claim 5, wherein the removable communications unit is a Wireless Local Area Network Card.

7. A removable communications unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the removable communications unit has an encoder coupled to said processor.

8. A removable communications unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is a decoder coupled to said processor.

9. A removable communications unit as claimed in claim 1, further including an antenna stub and the unit communications port is mounted to the stub.

10. A removable communications unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the unit communications port allows the security information to be transferred only when the proximity based communications port is in direct contact therewith.

11. A removable communications unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in use, the security information allows the removable communications unit to become part of a federation of operable communications units.

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12. A removable communications unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in use, the security information is an encryption key that allows the removable communications unit to encode and decode signals and thereby communicate with other operable communications units that have the same key.

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